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# THE ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

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VOLUME 52

**MARCH  
1959**

NUMBER 3

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# THE ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Official Journal of the Association of Assistant Librarians

(Section of the Library Association)

EDITOR: D. HARRISON

Central Library, Manchester, 2.

VOL. 52. NO. 3

MARCH, 1959

## *Two for Six*

A.P.T. II for public librarians in charge of branches or departments having six full-time staff. It has taken well over a year to reach this momentous decision since the amalgamation of A.P.T. grades threw the old A.P.T. II award (for three staff) into the melting pot. One can read the hopes expressed in the editorial of the *Assistant Librarian* for October, 1957 ("... higher status for librarians ... some special scale ...") and feel depressed. After all it didn't take much working out, did it? The new Grade I for three staff ... Grade II for six ... Grade V for fifteen staff, perhaps ...

What have we gained in effect? We do at least still have an "award" of some sort at the A.P.T. II level. But the fact that the old award has had a real effect means that fewer will benefit from the new, since most librarians in charge of six staff are already on the appropriate grade. Consequently the number of increases from A.P.T. I to A.P.T. II will not be spectacular.

And the major tragedy caused by the last telescoping of grades remains. A ridiculous number of posts is still likely to be advertised at Grade I. Readers of the February *Assistant* will have taken in Mr. Wilkes' survey of posts advertised in four months' issues of the *T.L.S.* It is perhaps worth repeating that 164 jobs were advertised on Grade I; 23 on Grade II; 8 on Grade III; 2 on Grade IV. Grade I can and often does cover the newly-qualified Senior Assistant at a Branch with six staff, and the experienced Librarian of a Branch with five, not to mention a host of other posts in between, and in Central Departments; Senior Assistants, Cataloguers, Children's Librarians, Reference Librarians. And nothing in the new award remedies this position.

The L.A. Council has accordingly decided to "protest strongly to NALGO against the inadequacy of the new N.J.C. Grading Decision," and to press them to open negotiations for a more satisfactory award for qualified librarians. Another decision of the L.A. Council is that all members be informed of its feelings regarding the award and that members who are also members of NALGO be urged to press our claims through local NALGO branches. We may again turn to the October, 1957, *Assistant Librarian*; that, too, called for action through local NALGO branches, and our response has left something to be desired. We must not ignore this new call of the L.A. Council which, in its actions over salaries, is proving its anxiety to carry the members of the Association with it and to bring them into the battle which is being fought on their behalf. Too many of us are content to let someone else do the fighting.

We must not stop at NALGO and our immediate employers. Despite the fact that many of us deal directly with our real employers, the public, we are not yet recognised by them as a profession of importance. This may be the root cause of our troubles and for its eradication we must have recourse to the art of public relations.

We must present our profession as one which is based on a core of specialised professional knowledge which needs both effort and intelligence to acquire. (Are we sure it does?). We must make our libraries competent to meet the public demand in the field we cover. (Do we even know what field we are trying to cover?). We must—each one of us—be capable of convincing the public that we are making a vital contribution to the welfare of the community. (Have we all convinced *ourselves* of this?). In a suspicious age we must be prepared not only to produce the goods, but also to demonstrate them. Only then will we be sure of getting paid.

## **Blacklisting**

### ***A move towards effectiveness***

The news that the Library Association is to transfer to the Society of Municipal and County Chief Librarians "all responsibility for . . . blacklisting all posts for chief librarians of public library authorities . . . at inadequate salaries" may seem to proffer no apparent benefit to the assistant librarian. The S.M.C.C.L. is an organisation confined strictly to chiefs (much more so, as Mr. Lovell has demonstrated, than the A.A.L. is to non-chiefs); in fact, the S.M.C.C.L. recently rejected the suggestion that it opened its ranks to other chartered librarians. Can we therefore expect it to have the interest of any but existing chief librarians—i.e. its members—at heart?

It would be wise to give the S.M.C.C.L. the benefit of the doubt. When it rejected the suggested widening of its scope, it was, one hopes, motivated by a desire to keep its commitments within what it considered to be manageable proportions rather than from mere exclusiveness. Nor, considering its recent efforts on the question of unsatisfactory salaries at several levels, is the L.A. likely to throw one section (with a small "s") of its members to the mercy of another.

Machinery is being constructed to ensure the smooth working of the scheme in a spirit of close co-operation between L.A. and S.M.C.C.L. The L.A. Membership Committee will continue to be informed by the S.M.C.C.L. of all cases in which action is taken; all members requesting information about such posts in the future will be referred immediately from the L.A. to the S.M.C.C.L., while the L.A. will insert notices of its own in the *T.L.S.* so that non-chiefs can make a first approach through their Association; finally branches and sections are being encouraged to point out to their readers the new system as publicised in the February *Liaison*.

This transfer of responsibility would seem to possess certain advantages. The S.M.C.C.L. is avowedly a trade union, the L.A. a heterogeneous body of Chartered and non-Chartered Librarians, plus authority members. The S.M.C.C.L. can go further in its recommendations than the L.A., which must base its "blacklisting" closely on comparable authorities; if as in the recent case of the North Riding there is considered to be no such *closely* comparable authority, then no "black-

listing" takes place. Furthermore, now that there are clearly defined fields of activity there can be no possible confusion arising from differing policies decided on by the two bodies for a particular post. The L.A. will be freed from the necessity in the case of chief librarian's posts to negotiate for better salaries, a function much better performed by a trade union, while at the same time it may be consulted by the trade union and should be able to exert considerable influence from a more objective standpoint. Many librarians feel that the ultimate aim is for the L.A. to be removed in the same way from *all* negotiations directly concerned with salaries, either by the setting up of a trade union for Chartered Librarians or by the panel or some similar system of professional bodies within Nalگو. Ardent readers of the *Assistant Librarian* in 1958 will know a little of those opinions; perhaps 1959 will bring progress in one direction or another.

In view of the close liaison on "blacklisting" between the L.A. and the S.M.C.C.L., and the fact that the L.A. is taking every possible step to ensure that members are referred to the S.M.C.C.L., there should be no excuse for librarians refusing to accept the S.M.C.C.L.'s decisions. The S.M.C.C.L. has been accepted by the L.A. as the negotiator in the matter of chief's salaries, and each librarian, assistant or chief, should act on the advice of the S.M.C.C.L. as if it had emanated direct from the L.A.

## OFFICERS OF THE A.A.L., 1959

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*Hon. Treasurer:* H. G. HOLLOWAY, A.L.A., Public Library, Eastbourne, Sussex.

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*Assistant Secretary:* R. OXLEY, A.L.A., Regional Library, Bridge Street, Belper, Derbyshire.

## Correspondence

### Qualifications : At Home and Abroad

Since my name appears in the list of the "old familiar names" to which Mr. Moon refers in his letter in your January issue, I think it is incumbent upon me to state clearly what my view-point is in this matter, since Mr. Moon's letter by no means makes the situation clear.

There are two points at issue; one is purely internal and refers to the Library Association's own qualifications in relation to librarianship in this country, and the second relates to the way in which these qualifications are regarded abroad. In the present discussion the latter is the more important issue. I have never made a secret of the fact that I believe the Library Association's complete stranglehold on the examination set-up to be, in general terms, a bad thing. Nothing has done more to limit the growth of education for librarianship in this country in the post war years than this monopoly which cannot, under any circumstances, allow for development at the speed with which it should take place in an expanding profession. This might be regarded as a purely internal matter without relevance to the present issue, were it not for the fact that it is precisely this curious pattern of British library education which is viewed so oddly by librarians in those countries to which many British librarians would now like to be going, either for a short period or for permanent residence.

It is quite understandable that Canadian Librarians find it difficult to equate the Fellowship of the Library Association with the qualification of a fully qualified Canadian Librarian.

It is not entirely the possession of a University Degree which makes for this difference, although that is naturally a matter of considerable concern. Nobody who knows the pattern of education in this country could expect education for librarianship in Britain to be entirely post-graduate at this present time, nor indeed probably for many decades to come. On the other hand, they can only look somewhat askance at the regrettably low standard of general education which the Library Association demands as a pre-requisite to sitting professional examinations. Any examiner and any tutor in this country could point to hundreds of instances where students' failures in examinations are due not so much to their misunderstanding of the professional work as to a lack of good general education, upon which alone a satisfactory professional education can be built. What is, I think, more important is the fact that in Canada, as in the United States, anyone who can claim to be a fully qualified librarian must have undergone some period of full time education. In this country this is far from being so. There is no guarantee that any librarian who possesses the full qualifications of our professional association has not, in fact, done so by part time study or by correspondence courses. Part time courses naturally vary enormously in efficiency, but correspondence courses, however good, can never be anything more than a means of passing an examination. They can never constitute an educational experience and it would be foolishness to expect anyone who is accustomed to full time education as a matter of course to look with any favour on those who have either been forced or have wished to avoid full time training. If we are to continue to encourage librarians from this country to go abroad, and it is devoutly to be hoped that we shall

## **A.A.L. Conference**

### **LIBRARIES FOR A NEW AGE**

#### **PURPOSE—PATTERN—PRACTICE**

W.T.A. GUEST HOUSE, ST. ANDREW'S, FOLKESTONE

17TH—19TH APRIL, 1959

For full details see the leaflet in the February issue of the *Assistant Librarian*, or write to J. F. Yeates, Central Library, Beckenham, Kent.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS—31ST MARCH.**

always do so, then it is important for external as well as for internal reasons that we should start setting our own house in order.

During this past summer when I was in Toronto, I had the opportunity of speaking to a number of librarians, mainly Canadian, on the pattern of education for librarianship in the United Kingdom. The point which I tried to make then is the point which I am always trying to stress in similar circumstances. I do not deny and will never deny that excellent librarians are produced in this country, equal in calibre to those who are emerging in any country throughout the world. What worries me is that they are accomplishing this in spite of our professional education rather than because of it.

These are the main reasons why I, personally, will continue to fight against the present position. I want a situation to prevail in which we no longer have to ask for a charitable viewpoint to be extended to us by librarians in other countries. There is no reason why we should not reform our own pattern in this country and be able to claim parity as of right. Not only would this ease the present position in relation to the rest of the English speaking world, but it would undoubtedly lead to a healthier situation at home.

Professional education should, and could, be something which would be of positive value to the young librarian and help him in his career. At the moment it is primarily regarded as a way of teaching candidates sufficient tricks to enable them to fool the examiners. Our syllabus is old-fashioned, our teaching agencies vary alarmingly in quality, our examination system is manifestly inefficient. Also, our refusal to accept the division of professional and non-professional workers in our libraries leaves us in a state of uncertainty as to who are the people who need professional training. Apart from this—everything is all right! The important thing is that the defects can be remedied.

It is patently stupid to suggest that the Library Schools are in any way acting against the professional interest in this matter. Probably no body of people have done more in the post war years to encourage their past students to try their wings in other countries; indeed, Mr. Moon himself is an example of one of these and it is singularly ungracious, at this time of re-assessment of our educational pattern, to make the suggestions which he has done in his letter.

ROY STOKES, *Head of Loughborough Library School.*

## Staff Division

Mr. Ramsden's letter, published in the December, 1958, issue of the *Assistant*, seems to me to put the cart before the horse, if he really wishes to argue that staff division in this country is impracticable because of our arrangements for professional education. Our attitude should surely be that *if* we were to decide that we wanted staff division, the educational resources would have to be adapted to the requirements.

In fact, however, such division already exists, and seems to work well, in Government libraries. In a lecture at the North-Western Polytechnic last year, entitled "Professional work for professional librarians," and published by the N.W.P., Mr. Mallaber explained that when the Treasury agreed to recognise Librarianship as a grade in the Civil Service, it was laid down as a condition that Librarians should perform only genuinely professional tasks, all others being done by clerical officers; he went on to point out that this involved him in examining in detail every job done in his library so as to decide what really *had* to be done by professionals. As a result he had arrived at a ratio of professional to non-professional staff of, if I remember rightly, something in the order of 1:5.

I expressed the view at the time that one of the most useful things that could result from this lecture would be a detailed account of the results of Mr. Mallaber's deliberations so that the rest of us could make use of them—since the work of deciding what are and what are not professional duties *has* already been done for a group of libraries, it seems quite needlessly wasteful for other libraries to have to go through the whole process for themselves.

However, the main purpose of this letter is to point out to Mr. Ramsden that his thinking in this respect is well behind the times since the arrangement which he says will not work in this country is, in fact, already flourishing. It is not implicit in this arrangement that the maximum salary obtainable by a clerical officer is lower than the minimum paid to a librarian; on the contrary there is considerable parallelism through part of the scale. Furthermore, there is nothing to prevent a clerical officer who develops an interest in the profession from studying and taking the exams.

This arrangement carries its own problems, of course, and it is probably true that its general adoption would imply a considerable shrinkage in the size of the "profession," but by the same token it would probably go up in general esteem and would thereby command higher salaries. Such a situation might also more strongly attract graduates into the profession.

R. J. Hoy, *School of Oriental and African Studies.*

## Support for Mr. Lovell

To allow a Chief Librarian to serve on the A.A.L. Council rather savours of allowing him to run with the hare and with the hounds. What would his position be, for example, if the A.A.L. were to have their differences with the S.M.C.C.L. or with a Local Authority Association? The great strength of the A.A.L. lies in the fact that no member of its Council has any divided loyalties to impede his free speech. The average A.A.L. Councillor is a starry-eyed idealist with a studied irreverence for the rule book. Whoever saw a starry-eyed Chief Librarian who was not bound hand and foot to standing orders, rules and regulations? Keep off

the Chief Librarians is my advice even if they appear to have their quota of starry eyes. Dealing with Local Authority Committees breeds an embittered cynicism quite out of keeping with A.A.L. affairs. The poor old Chief can't help turning sour, it's his ulcers that do it.

Whilst in full spate may I enquire of someone in authority what the exact position of the Special Librarian is in A.A.L. affairs? At what point does he cease to be an Assistant and become a Chief Officer? I have been a little uneasy about several of the nominations to the Council in the last few years on this point and several suspicious looking nominations appeared this time. Can their position be defined for us? It would be very wrong to exclude Public Chief Librarians if Special Chief Librarians were allowed to stand, apparently in defiance of tradition.

D. E. DAVINSON, *Dukinfield Public Library.*

### **Another View**

The tradition that Chief Librarians shall not serve on the A.A.L. Council or Council committees is comparatively recently established, and in many cases in the past few years the decision by newly-appointed Chiefs to resign from active A.A.L. work has meant that the Association has been greatly weakened.

We are sure that Yorkshire is not the only Division which includes in the ranks of its Committee, Chiefs of small authorities whose outlook more nearly approaches that of the assistant than that of a Chief. Indeed, Chiefs of the nature referred to by Mr. Lovell in the January *Assistant* may to a great extent be termed glorified branch librarians. Can the librarian of an authority of 30,000 or less be really compared with the "Big Brothers" of the larger systems? Many young assistants view with more suspicion the ideas formulated by the deputy chiefs of large systems, many of whom already serve on the A.A.L. Council and most Divisional Committees.

The Association would do well to encourage the Chiefs of small authorities to continue to participate freely in its affairs. Although logically they have no place in our ranks, they are usually young in years or outlook and bring to the A.A.L. Committees on which they serve a keenness tempered by a modicum of responsibility only gained by their type of experience. The mantles of the Gurner Joneses and Gardners of the past have been capably donned by many of our younger chiefs, and it would be unfortunate for the Association if their enthusiasm was damned.

C. W. TAYLOR, W. S. H. ASHMORE, *Sheffield City Libraries.*

Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. ASHMORE are Chairman and Secretary respectively of the Yorkshire Division.

### **Angry Young Man !**

There has been a good deal of speculation in your columns recently as to why many good people are leaving public libraries. The reason seems to me to be fairly simple. Surely in few other jobs of comparable nature does one have to work for so many years doing largely routine, unintelligent, and subordinate tasks before being entrusted with interesting and satisfying occupations and with real responsibilities. Under the present system those with active minds and the desire fully to develop their personalities will always rebel against the drudgery and authoritarianism of public libraries, and seek some environment where they can get away from mere clerical work, practice librarianship, and be allowed some scope for initiative and individuality.

What surprises me is not that so many good people leave public libraries, but that so many stay.

R. C. SAXBY.

# Both Sides of the Counter

by Daphne Hook

You work in a small technical library in a small provincial town. It is November and it is raining.

"Can I borrow that book on automation, by Smith (or is it Brown?), published in America about 1950. No, perhaps it was published in Germany and translated by Smith (or was it Brown?). Anyway, you are sure to recognise it, it has a bright green cover."

"Can you get me details of a research project on leadership carried out by an American railway company a few years ago?"

"Can I have some figures showing the rise in production per hour in all American industries from 1947 onwards, by 9 o'clock to-morrow?"

"I am sorry; I have left *Operations Research applied to Inventory Control* by The Case Institute of Technology on a train in Leeds, could you borrow me another copy urgently . . ."

"I am sorry, the book on personnel, the new one which cost six pounds, has been sent to Persia; of course, it hasn't been lost, but the office out there doesn't know where it is at the moment."

"Please can I have . . ." "I am sorry . . ." repeating and repeating like a Wagnerian leitmotiv.

And then comes the invitation to do a short piece of research work on technical and social subjects in London. You sit in your own library, anticipating your temporary escape and savouring the delights of the bibliographical resources offered to you. The only difficulty is choosing from such abundance. Shall you decide on the commonsense and stolidity of the present-day Patents Office Library, with, however, its memories of Trollopian civil servants and therefore the delights of London life of a century ago. Or shall it be the Science Library, which is so near the Victoria and Albert and the joys of 18th century bindings and the Somerset Maughan Theatre Collection? After all, it is not wise to do too much technical work at one time. For that reason perhaps you will not go quite so often to The British Institute of Management, perhaps the Jamecian elegance of U.S.I.S. and its nearness to the private art galleries in Bond Street would make a contrasting and therefore suitable background to the work you are doing. After all you will have a complete list of correct bibliographical references, you will know correct titles of periodicals, you will know the catalogues, you will know the classifications. Three hours work a day will suffice.

After the delights of anticipation, reality was somehow not quite the same. It is strange how the neatly typed list of references gets displaced by the week's grocery list. Did I really need the Transactions of the American Economic Society for 1927? Surely, it is 1937 or even 1947. What was the name of that book with the red and white cover? Where could I get a copy of the research carried out at Harvard in 1955? Was the article in the June, 1957, issue of the *I.L.O. Review* really relevant? Where could I get a picture of the first automatic flour mill which started in Philadelphia in 1784?

Never mind, the librarian would know. "Please can you help me, please can you help me . . ." "I am sorry, I am sorry . . ." Perhaps, after all, the notice 'If you are unable to replace the book in the right place, please leave it on the table,' did apply to me, too. Perhaps I had been a little too hasty in criticising that location index. Perhaps it would

be better if I knew a little more about the Library of Congress Classification . . . Perhaps, perhaps, perhaps.

After this climacteric experience, my own library appeared like a safe harbour in a stormy sea, my books, as battered, and trusty veterans whose habits I knew and my enquirers as friends.

"I would like to borrow a book on the influence of the universities on management training, published during the war and written by a Spaniard."

"Of course, I would be delighted to find it for you."

And I mean it—now.

## A.A.L. PUBLICATIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

*Again available:*

PHILLIPS, W. HOWARD. A Primer of Book Classification. Price 10s. (8s. to members of the Library Association), post free.

*Temporarily out of print:*

(Revised editions in preparation)

Final Examination Guide. Part 1. Bibliography and book selection. 1954.

BINNS, NORMAN E. An Introduction to Historical Bibliography. 1953.

The reduced prices of A.A.L. publications when supplied to members of the Library Association apply only to copies ordered directly from the Honorary Education and Sales Officer (J. S. Davey, F.L.A., 49, Halstead Gardens, London, N.21) or from Divisional Publications' Officers. *They do not apply to copies ordered through normal trade channels.*

TURNER GILBERT

**The private press: its achievements and influence**, published by the Association of Assistant Librarians (West Midland Division). 24pp., 2s.

Copies of this pamphlet, which is well recommended for Registration students, can still be obtained from Miss A. H. Higgs, A.L.A., Reference Library, Birmingham, 1.

*The A.A.L. Council extends a welcome to any assistants or parties of students who would like to attend one of its meetings. This year the Council meets at Chaucer House at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday, 19th March, 17th September, and 12th November, and at the Police Assembly Hall, Nottingham, on Thursday, 14th May. So that accommodation may be assured, will members wishing to attend, please give as much notice as possible to the Honorary Secretary, 33, Rosebery Avenue, Worthing, Sussex.*

# BEG, BORROW OR BUY?

## Council Notes—22 January

The January Council Meeting is always an unpredictable mixture of the routine and the unexpected. The routine is inevitable since at this meeting appointments have to be made of committees and their chairmen, dates arranged for future meetings, officers co-opted—in fact all the machinery has to be set in motion once more so that the year's business may be tackled. The unexpected is always likely to arise since each year brings its crop of new faces to put the sitting members on their mettle. Mr. Ferry, beribboned with his Presidential badge of office, took the Chair for the first time with such success that the routine items were never dull, whilst the clashes of opinion were always good-natured.

The present officers of Council were all re-elected and co-opted, and Mr. Thompson was elected Chairman of Council. The Standing Committees were appointed, and Council then adjourned to allow them to meet.

Having survived lunch, Council re-assembled at 1.30 p.m. Mr. Langley led on behalf of the Press and Publications Committee in reporting the morning's deliberations, and the item to attract most attention was a decision not to review A.A.L. publications in the *Assistant Librarian*. Mr. Phillips, supported by Mr. Surridge, deplored this attitude, feeling that we should have sufficient confidence in our publications to face up to criticism even in our own journal. However, the majority

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**George Taylor,**  
Chief Education Officer.

Education Dept.  
Leeds. 1.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1959 Annual General Meeting of the A.A.L. will be held at the Police Assembly Hall, Nottingham, on Wednesday, 13th May. Notices of motion for this meeting must be submitted in writing, signed by two members of the Association, to reach me within fourteen days of the publication of this notice. If a member is proposing to submit an amendment to the Rules of the Association, such amendment must be signed by at least ten members.

JOHN H. JONES,

*Honorary Secretary.*

33, ROSEBERY AVENUE,  
WORTHING,  
SUSSEX.

view was that adverse criticism would be detrimental to sales and that this should be avoided.

The report of the Education Committee had a calm reception. Matters of note included the appointment of Mr. Frank Atkinson as editor of the examination supplements in the *Assistant Librarian*, a decision on a motion from the East Midlands Division to ask revisers of correspondence courses to ensure that no textbooks were listed for reading that were not readily available, and the announcement of the winner of the Martin Award for the best correspondence course student in the First Professional Examination. The honour goes to Miss C. E. Davies, who receives the congratulations of us all.

The Policy Committee had been faced with a short but meaty agenda. Consideration was given to apathy in national professional elections, and this is to be pursued further at the next meeting. Blacklisting was once again under discussion, this time on the decision of the Library Association Council to leave the blacklisting of the posts of chief librarians of public libraries to the S.M.C.C.L. Council confirmed the Policy Committee's approval of this decision, and the hope was expressed that all members of the Association would give their loyal support to the revised procedure. Consideration was given to a letter in the January issue of the *Assistant Librarian* concerning the tradition that chief librarians shall not serve on the Council and committees of the Association. The value of the tradition was recognised, but it was considered best to let members use their own discretion at election times.

In the realm of Finance, Mr. Holloway was able to report upon the successful outcome of the negotiations with the Library Association for an increase in our capitation grant. The interim increase of 1s. 3d. per head has been fully reported in *Liaison*, and members will have been gratified to note the congratulations of the L.A. upon our housekeeping. The controversial item in the report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee concerned an application from the Manchester Division for a grant towards the cost of purchasing a duplicator. The committee, wary of creating a precedent, had decided instead to offer a loan of £30. This issue divided Council into the O. and M. boys, who regarded the proper equipment of divisions as money well invested, and the beg, borrow or acquire brigade who claimed that money was a limited commodity and

better spent elsewhere. Mr. Pickles, the new secretary of the Manchester Division, in a forceful maiden speech, attacked the niggardly attitude of those who advocated a policy of make-do-and-mend, and with the able support of Mr. Phillips who innocently declared that he didn't think "that Council should overrule any of its major committees," the matter was referred back.

There followed two documents for approval, and as is inevitable on these occasions, there was difficulty in achieving any form of wording which would meet with the approval of all 47 members of Council. The first for consideration was a draft for a new edition of *Invitation and Opportunity* which is an introductory leaflet for new members. After a few unsuccessful attempts to amend it, Council agreed that this was a matter far better handled by the Press and Publications Committee.

The second document was the Annual Report, and this had to be approved by the full Council. In the event, the amendments proposed all managed to avoid time-wasting trivialities such as matters of punctuation, and the report received a comparatively smooth passage.

An invitation from the East Midlands Division to hold the Presidential Induction and the Annual General Meeting at Nottingham was gladly accepted since it will enable members to honour Mr. Ferry on his home territory. There followed the choice of speaker for the A.A.L. Session at the Torquay Conference of the Library Association, and the honour went to Mr. Harold Smith.

As usual, the meeting ended with the reports of representatives on the L.A. Council and its committees. Optimistic as always, Council readily supported two motions calling for a review of the kitchen organisation and for adequate catering facilities in the new Chaucer House.

Thus the meeting ended and members went their various ways happily dreaming of edible food.

JOHN H. JONES.

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# *Visual Aids in Librarianship*

*by Walter F. Broome, Hon. Films Officer, A.A.L.*

The Association of Assistant Librarians had the honour to be the first professional (or any other) body to sponsor a sound film depicting the services of the Public Libraries of Great Britain. That film has been distributed throughout the world and is still circulating. It was followed by another shorter sound film which depicts the service which Public Libraries can and do give to Industry and Commerce. Both films were produced for showing to the Public to give a rapid visual survey of the Public Library background.

Continuing this policy of keeping ahead with professional educational material and methods, it has been decided to set up a loan collection of 2in. by 2in. slides in colour and monochrome of various aspects of Library Science. The collection is available for loan selection by schools, staff guilds, public relations officers, youth employment officers, etc., and individual students. (The Hon. Films Officer will be pleased to hear from any librarian who has visual material of a suitable nature for the collection, with terms on which it could be made available).

The collection of slides at present listed amounts to nearly 500. These are suitably mounted and labelled. The subjects covered include:—The history of the Title Page, Examples of Private Presses, Historically important early printing, Book Illustration, Bibliographies, Periodical Indexes, Library Services, Charging Methods, Display, Junior Library, Library Buildings (facades and plans), Gramophone Record Collections, Book-binding, etc. The collection is continually growing. The usefulness of the transparencies cannot be over-estimated in view of the rapid growth and increasing complexity of professional techniques. From the list of transparencies selection is infinitely variable to meet any need for which the illustration may be required. To cover cost of postage and insurance it has been decided by the Council that a charge of fourpence shall be made for monochrome slides and sixpence for colour slides.

Where a projector is not available lone students can make good use of 2in. by 2in. slides by looking at them in a hand viewer such as the "Jafo" or any similar viewer. Some of these viewers can also be obtained with an attachment for viewing filmstrips, which can also be viewed very satisfactorily in a microfilm reader.

To assist those who wish to use films and filmstrips in their work, a revised list of material is appended. Addresses of distributing agents will be found at the end of the list. The Hon. Films Officer will be pleased to advise on filmic visual material which is available and useful for various aspects of Library Science and Publicity.

The address to which requests should be made is:—

THE HON. FILMS OFFICER,  
PUBLIC LIBRARY, LONDON, S.E.27.  
FILMSTRIPS.

BOOK PRODUCTION.

"Book production in Europe," by P. D. Record in 5 parts, 197f. (Common Ground).

(A comprehensive survey in detail with excellent notes. Specially recommended).

Part 1. General history, 36f. General account from Assyrian to modern times.

Part 2. Paper making, 36f.

Part 3. Printing, 43f. Letter press printing—machinery and processes.

Part 4. Illustration processes, 44f. Omits colour printing.

Part 5. Bookbinding and publishing, 38f.

"Books," 21f. (B.I.F.).

Book production throughout its processes.

"How a book is made," 10f. (B.I.F.).

A very elementary introduction.

#### BOOKBINDING.

"Bookbinding," by Stanley H. Cox, 28f. (*Daily Mail*). A practical account of simple bookbinding.

"Bookbinding and publishing," 38f. (Common Ground).

(Part 5 of "Book production in Europe," by P. D. Record).

#### ILLUSTRATION PROCESSES.

"Albrecht Dürer," 26f. (G.B.).

A good collection including woodcuts and engravings.

"Copperplate engraving and etching—15th to 18th centuries," 36f. (Part 3 of "Graphic Art"). (E.P.).

"Illustration processes," 44f. (Common Ground).

(Part 4 of "Book production in Europe," by P. D. Record). Omits colour printing.

"Lithography," by Yevonde and Bromfield, 43f. (E.F.V.A.).

A detailed account of the process.

"Medieval woodcuts," by S. Savage. (Common Ground).

The art of printing from wooden blocks from 12—16th century.

"Modern wood engravings," by S. Savage, 39f. (Common Ground).

From late 18th century to the present.

"Roots of book illustration," 37f. (Part I of "Graphic Art") (E.P.).

Picture story-telling from the earliest times.

"Victorian book and periodical illustration," 36f. (Part 5 of "Graphic Art"). (E.P.).

. . . Cruikshank, Rosetti, Caldecott, Greenaway, etc. . . .

"Wood engraving," 42f. (Unicorn Head).

History and technique.

#### LIBRARY SCIENCE.

"Bibliographies of bibliography," by Michael Saich, L. M. Payne and W. F. Broome, 31df. (N.W.P.).

. . . prepared for students of Registration Examination.

"Charging Methods," by W. F. Broome, 33f. (A.A.L.).

All the usual methods described.

"Display in the library," by Walter F. Broome (in production) (A.A.L.).

"Exploiting periodicals," by L. M. Payne; ed. by W. F. Broome, 17df. (N.W.P.).

Extracting information from periodical literature.

"Let's join the Library," 24f. (Finsbury Public Libraries).

An introduction suitable for 7—12 years of age.

"Library adventure," by J. Haywood and R. F. Vollans, 36f. (E.P.).

Suitable for 12—15 years of age.

"Rural libraries," by W. F. Broome, 36f. (A.A.L.).

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

"Local Councils" (E.P.).

- "Local government" (J321), 40f. (C.F.L.).
- "Local government" 33f. colour. (G.B.).
- "Local government" (NALGO).
- "Local government" (V.I.S.).
- "Local government, History of" (E.P.).
- "Local government officer, No. 2, Town Clerk," 25f. (E.P.).
- "Local government officer No. 3, Medical Officer of Health," 27f.
- "Local government officer, No. 5, Chief Education Officer," 31f.
- "Local government officer, The Librarian" (in preparation).

#### MAPS.

- "Maps," 30f. (CFL).

The work of Christopher Saxton and the Royal Ordnance Survey.  
 "Understanding the ordnance maps," Part 1, Buildings, 25f. Part 2, Settlements, 28f. (GB).

#### NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

- "Background of democracy," 29f. (CFL).
- "British Parliamentary government," 47f. (GB) for the British Council.

#### NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION.

- "How your local newspaper is produced," 35f. (*Bolton Evening News*.)

#### PAPER MAKING.

- "How paper is made," 30df. (EFVA).  
 (Part of Visual Unit, "Printing and paper making").
- "Paper," 28f. (Unicorn Head).
- "Paper making," 36f. (Common Ground).  
 (Part 2 of "Book production in Europe," by P. D. Record).
- "Paper making," 39f. (EP).  
 From raw materials to finished paper—a detailed account.
- "Paper making." In 2 parts, 54f. (EFVA and *Daily Mail*).  
 Part 1. "Manufacture and use of paper," 26f.  
 Part 2. "Manufacture of hand-made paper," 28f.
- "Paper making in Japan," 22df. (EFVA).  
 (Part of Visual Unit, "Printing and paper making").

#### PRINTING.

- "A history of the written word," 36f. (*Daily Mail*).  
 Magdalenian painting to printing.
- "History of type design," 47f. (Common Ground).
- "Printing," 43f. (Common Ground).  
 (Part 3 of "Book production in Europe," by P. D. Record).  
 Letterpress printing-machinery and processes.
- "Technical development of letterpress printing," 21df. (EFVA).  
 (Part of Visual Unit, "Printing and papermaking").
- "William Caxton," 36f. (VIS).  
 Gutenberg and his associates. Caxton in the Netherlands.  
 Specimens of the work of Caxton, etc.

#### PUBLISHING.

- "Book binding and publishing," 38f (Common Ground).  
 (Part 5 of "Book production in Europe," by P.D. Record).

#### WORK WITH CHILDREN.

- "Learning to read," 39f. Colour. (Unicorn Head).  
 Recommended to parent-teacher groups.

"Puppets," 32f. (EP).

Making clay models for papier maché heads, etc.

There are strips to illustrate fairy stories, etc. suitable for story hours which are too numerous to list here. The Hon. Films Officer can assist with titles.

## FILMS.

### BOOK PRODUCTION

(See also *Printing, Publishing*, etc.).

"Chapter and verse," 25m. (Sound Services) for National Book League. Traces development of writing from the time of the cave man to printing, binding and publication.

"Love of books," 11m. (UK947) (CFL).

The art and craft of book production with reference to Caxton, Morris and Gill.

"Making books," 10m. (761A4) (NCVAE).

From author to bookshop—a good survey.

### BOOKBINDING.

"Club Magazine No. 29," 5m. (GB).

This short sequence included in a larger film of one reel gives an excellent background approach to the subject.

"How to bind a book," 39m. (Dryad), Silent.

Shows in great detail how to bind a book from the craftsman's viewpoint. Prepared for craft teaching.

### FILMS IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

"Film and you," 20m. (NFBC).

... how the local Public Library can become a distributing centre for 16mm. films as well as books.

### ILLUSTRATION PROCESSES.

"Colour lithography—an art medium," 36m. Colour (CFL).

Expert demonstration of the techniques of hand lithography.

"Lithography," 12m. (BIF). Silent.

An account of the principles and methods of lithography; *see also* filmstrip of same title.

### INDUSTRY.

"Just an idea," 20m. (UK1 506) (CFL) produced for D.S.I.R.

Sources of technical information open to industry ...

"Knowledge unlimited," 10m. (N.S. Wales P.L.) from L.A.

A propaganda film for increase in public book services in N.S.W. Also useful for its indication that industry can benefit from the Public Library service.

"Resources discovered," 11m. (AAL).

Shows the extent of the information available in the Public Library to industry and commerce.

### LIBRARIES.

"Books in hand," 23m., Colour. (Sheffield City L.s.).

The work of the City Libraries.

"Books for all," 19m. (UNESCO).

Reading and libraries in Commonwealth countries.

"Books on wheels," 14m. (NCFB).

Toronto Public Library Service.

"China of to-day, No. 11," 10m. (Plato).

A "magazine" film which includes shots of Peking Public Library.

"For all who read," 10m. Colour. (Tasmania Public Library) from L.A.

Public Library Service in Tasmania.

"Index to progress," 23m. (AAL).

The Public Library Service in England and Wales. Intended as an indication of the facilities which might be expected by the public from a well-run Public Library.

"Knowledge unlimited" v. *Industry* above.

"Library of Congress," 20m. (CFL).

Gives general outline of the Library. Rather too much "padding" for use in the classroom. A silent version has been prepared by the present writer (with the kind consent of the U.S. Government), which omits what is not essential to training.

"Road to books," 22m. (UNESCO).

A survey of Library Services in Scandinavia/Europe.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

"Changes in the franchise," 19m. (GB).

"Local government," 10m. (UK1189) (CFL).

"Mr. Jenkins pays his rates" (UK1526), 19m. (CFL).

The area dealt with is Slough: the details of Local Government vary slightly in other areas.

"New Councillor," 21m. (UK1234) (CFL).

"Ratepayer's money," 8m. (GB).

"Your local Council," 11m. (GB).

The above five films are suitable for background study for First Professional Students.

#### MUSEUMS.

"Wallace Collection" (UK1499), 30m. (CFL).

#### NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION.

"*Kentish Times* story." 37m. (*Kentish Times*).

The composing room, process engraving, the rotary printing press, etc.

"Local newspaper" (UK1338), 18m. (CFL).

Shows collection of news, printing and distribution.

"Newspaper story," 29m. (BIF).

See also "Home town paper" under *Publishing*.

#### PAPER MAKING.

"Gift of Ts'ai Lun," 29m. (CFL).

"Mill on the Medway" (UK2047), 35m. (CFL).

The Reed Paper Group's film on making newsprint and all types of paper with some of its uses.

"Paper," 11m. (EFVA).

Teaching notes—elementary.

"Paper chain," 30m (Wiggins Teape and Co. or G.B.).

"Paper makers," 33m. (GB and SCFL).

"Story of paper making," 14m. (EFVA).

Elementary and basic.

"Tree to paper," 10m. (B.I.F).

## PRINTING.

- "Making sure," Part 1: Monotype machines in the making 30m. Col.  
Part 2: Type faces in the making. 35m. Colour.  
(Monotype Corporation).  
A very detailed and beautifully made sales film with much to interest students of librarianship.
- "Modern Linotypes," 30m. (Linotype and Machinery Ltd.).  
Operation and application of standard models.
- "Story of printing," 45m. (EFVA).  
Very good production, but elementary; i.e. it sets out to describe the processes to school children and moves rather slowly for adults.  
There are also valuable wall charts and some small three dimensional aids which go to make up this Unit. *See also* filmstrip section.

## PUBLISHING.

- "Books," 7m. (B.I.F.) Silent.  
Factory processes in production—*see also* filmstrip of same title.
- "Making books," 11m. (EFVA).
- "Spotlight on best sellers," 15m. (20th Century Fox).  
Information on the essentials of "best sellers," described by "best seller" writers.
- "Love of books," 11m. (UK947) (CFL).  
The work of William Morris, Eric Gill, Stanley Morison, Sir Francis Meynell and Allen Lane to support the opinion book-production is an art form.
- See also* "Chapter and verse," under *Book production*.

## SPECIAL EQUIPMENT.

- "Dictation and typing of correspondence" (UK2093), 11m. (CFL).  
... the use of dictating machines ...
- "Elements of punched cards accounting" (UK2909) (CFL) for Powers-Samas Ltd.  
... a cinematic sales brochure of the range of equipment.
- "LEO — the automatic office," 15m. Leo Computers Ltd. A useful introduction to the electronic computer.

## WORK STUDY.

- "Introduction to work sampling" (V470), 19m. Colour (CFL).  
Useful for instituting work study without specialist personnel.
- "Man-machine charts" (V418), 22m. (CFL).  
... prelude to work study ...

## WORK WITH CHILDREN.

- "School book craft: No. 1. Making a scrap book," 15m. Silent (SCFL).  
A clear and helpful demonstration that will encourage classes to make their own scrap book.

## WRITING.

- "History of writing," 25m. (EFVA).

## ADDRESSES OF DISTRIBUTORS.

AAL—Hon. Films Officer, Public Library, London, S.E.27.  
*Bolton Evening News*—*Bolton Evening News*, Bolton, Lancs.  
BIF—British Instructional Films, Ltd., 133, Oxford Street, London, W.1.  
CFL—Central Film Library, Government Building, Bromyard Avenue, Acton, London, W.3.

Common Ground—Common Ground Ltd., 44, Fulham Road, London, S.W.3.  
*Daily Mail*—*Daily Mail*, Visual Aids Dept., Northcliffe House, London, E.C.4.  
 Dryad—Messrs. Dryad, Ltd., St. Nicholas Street, Leicester.  
 EFVA—Educational Foundation for Visual Aids, Brooklands House, Weybridge, Surrey.  
 EP—Educational Productions (E.P. Ltd.), 17, Denbigh Street, London, S.W.1.  
 GB—G.B. Film Library, Aintree Road, Perivale, Greenford, Middlesex.  
*Kentish Times*—*Kentish Times*, Times Building, Sidcup, Kent.  
 Linotype and Machinery Ltd.—Linotype and Machinery Ltd., 21, John Street, London, W.C.1.  
 Leo Computers Ltd., Cadby Hall, London, W.14.  
 Monotype Corporation Ltd., Salford, Redhill, Surrey.  
 NALGO—N.A.L.G.O., 1, York Gate, London, N.W.1.  
 NCFB—National Film Board of Canada, Colquhoun House, Broadwick Street, W.1.  
 N.S. Wales P.L.—Write to The Secretary, Library Association, Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.1.  
 NWP—North Western Polytechnic, School of Librarianship, Prince of Wales Road, London, N.W.5.  
 Sound-Services—Sound-Services Ltd., 269, Kingston Road, S.W.19.  
 SCFL—Scottish Central Film Library, 16—17, Woodside Terrace, Charing Cross, Glasgow, C.3.  
 20th Cent. Fox—Twentieth Century Fox Film Co., Ltd., Film Renters, London, W.1.  
 Unicorn Head—Unicorn Head Visual Aids Ltd., 42, Westminster Palace Gardens, London, S.W.1.  
 VIS—Visual Information Service Ltd., 12, Bridge Street, Hungerford, Berkshire.  
 Wiggins, Teape & Co.—Messrs. Wiggins, Teape & Alex. Pirie (Sales) Ltd., Gateway House, Watling Street, London, E.C.4.

***Dewey, Melvil. Decimal classification and relative index, 16th ed, Lake Placid Club, N.Y., Forest Press, 1958, 2v.***

Since the adverse criticism of the 15th edition of the Decimal Classification the publication of a new edition has been awaited with some interest. Would the new edition carry the principles of the 15th edition still further and make its adoption impossible for the majority of libraries? We have the answer in the newly-published 16th edition which basically represents a return to the principles of the 14th. It is edited by the Library of Congress Decimal Classification Section in conjunction with experts in classification and all branches of knowledge. The schedules are based on practical experience in the Library of Congress, the largest single user of the Decimal Classification, and on the recommendations of interested libraries to whom sections of the draft schedules were sent for criticism.

The 16th edition retains the principle of "integrity of numbers." This principle, whereby once a topic has been placed at a given number, it will not later be placed at another, is one of the oldest of the Decimal Classification. It was its abandonment to keep the schedules abreast of knowledge that made the 15th edition unsuitable for most libraries. The 16th edition has attempted to compromise between the need for revision

and for maintaining "integrity of numbers," and has made 851 relocations from the 14th edition and 528 from the 15th. An example of a relocation from the 14th to the 16th edition is the amalgamation of 654, "Telegraph, Cables, Signals," with 384, "Telegraph, Cable, Telephone," at 384 under the new heading "Telecommunication," leaving 654 vacant.

The illogicality of having two co-ordinate topics at numbers one of which is subordinate to the other has been reduced in this edition by the use of type face and indentation. It recognises that 946.9, "Portugal," is not subordinate to 946, "Spain," and that 634.9, "Forestry," is not a sub-division of 634, "Fruit Culture."

An attempt was made in the 15th edition to rectify the uneven degree of expansion in the schedules of the 14th, but the reductions were too drastic. The 16th edition has improved on both these editions by relating its expansion to the number of books in libraries; the existence of twenty or more titles at one specific number in the Library of Congress is considered to necessitate sub-division. A comparison of the schedules for 676, "Paper" and "Articles made of paper" and 677, "Textile manufactures" in the three editions illustrates the varying degrees of expansion. 676 has respectively 0, 7 and 35 sub-divisions, and 677 has 114, 10 and 85. Provision is made for such new topics as "Cybernetics," 006, and "Smog," 614.71, but an example of a subject for which no specific number is provided is Biographies of children, eleven examples of which appear at 920.9[1] in the 1957 cumulation of the British National Bibliography.

Inorganic and organic chemistry, 546/547, have been completely remodelled with little regard to earlier editions. The obsolescent schedules have been included after the relative Index for libraries who do not wish to reclassify, but they will not appear in the 17th edition which, incidentally, will be published in approximately seven years' time.

The layout and typography of the 16th edition are good, the pages are numbered and modern terminology is used. The index is the same size as that of the 14th edition in spite of the shorter tables, (17,928 entries compared with 31,364) and this, allied with the copious notes, has resulted in the use of two volumes, one for the tables and one for the index. Following the Relative Index are appendices consisting of a list of numbers which have provision for geographic division in the schedules, a special author table for Shakespeare, a table for the classification of college and university publications, a concordance of chemical elements showing the different numbers allocated to them in the 14th, 15th and 16th editions and the obsolescent schedules for inorganic and organic chemistry.

This edition will be easier to use than the 14th because the scope notes, instructions and annotations are more helpful and direct. However it is unlikely that many libraries in this country will adopt it in its entirety because of the widespread use of the British National Bibliography which is based on the 14th edition and which will probably incorporate very few

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if any of the relocations in the 16th. The publication of this edition is of particular interest to Registration students; the Library Association has given consent to its use in Group A (iii) commencing with the summer examination this year.

A. DOYLE.

**Library Association, North-West Branch, "Union List of Periodicals in the Libraries of the North-West." 1958.**

The debt which librarianship as a whole owes to voluntary effort in the compilation of such vital working tools as this is tremendous, and the compiler, Mr. J. C. Hartas, of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, is to be both heartily congratulated and thanked for the hard slogging he has obviously devoted to this list, which is a model of its kind. Over 7,000 titles are included from 112 libraries in the area, and as the dates of files held are included in the vast majority of cases, the finished list is admirably equipped to serve its self-announced purpose as a ready-reference index to the resources of the region. It is to be regretted that complete coverage is impaired by the fact that Manchester University were apparently unable to co-operate in this venture, and also that one of the largest public libraries in the area only details its holdings for a tiny minority of the titles cited.

The list is printed on one side of the paper only, and is therefore, in effect, already interleaved for the manuscript insertion of amendments, changes of title and additions, a most valuable feature for a list of this type. It is spirally bound, not in itself the ideal arrangement where hard use is anticipated, but I imagine most librarians will have it bound in more conventional form before subjecting it to the intensive punishment it will inevitably get. We have ourselves worn out three bound copies of the previous, more modest, edition of this list since its appearance in 1952. At a cost of 12s. 6d., post free, obtainable from Mr. G. A. Carter, Municipal Library, Museum Street, Warrington, this is an outstanding bargain, made possible only by the unpaid efforts of all concerned, and one which will repay its cost many times over to any librarian, not only in the North West, but further afield.

F. R. TAYLOR.

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